

VZCZCXRO4726
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHVJ #2307/03 2721220
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 291220Z SEP 06
FM AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4516
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSCWASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 SARAEVO 002307

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DEPT FOR EUR (DICARLO), EU/SCE, P (BAME); NSC FOR BRAUN;
OSD FOR FLORY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/01/2015

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [BK](#)

SUBJECT: BOSNIA ON ELECTION EVE - EVOLUTION, REVOLUTION,
AND CONFUSION

* Missing Section 001 *

* Missing Section 002 *

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the House of Peoples, potentially cementing in place a
nationalist blocking majority.

¶10. (SBU) Another wild card in Croat politics is Social
Democratic Party (SDP) Zeljko Komsic's candidacy for the
Croat member of the Tri-Presidency (Ref B). Anxiety is
growing among Croat parties and voters that the SDP's
traditionally loyal voters, coupled with multiple candidacies
among the Croat parties themselves will propel Komsic to
victory. The Sarajevo-based Komsic does not need to win all
110,000 to 140,000 projected SDP voters if Jovic and Ljubic
split the approximately 150,000 to 180,000 Croat electorate
among themselves. This week, Zvonko Jurisic, Croat Party of
Rights (HSP) Tri-Presidency candidate, also reportedly began
a late surge, presumably at the expense of Jovic and Ljubic.
His gains, if real, would further split the Croat vote.
Efforts to rally Croat parties around a single candidate have
predictably failed amid clashes of competing egos.

Comment: What Does All This Mean

¶11. (C) Our immediate post-election priority remains
constitutional reform agenda. In that context, the most
significant October 1 electoral races are those for the
Bosniak and Croat members of the Tri-Presidency and the
contest between HDZ and HDZ-1990 for the hearts and minds of
Herzegovina. Silajdzic and Ljubic wins as well as a big
night for HDZ-1990 would certainly complicate constitutional
reform. Over the longer term, these results would also
likely complicate the usual triangular negotiations required
to reach consensus on other issues, such as police reform.
In any case, mixed results in the Federation coupled with a
clear Dodik win might herald a longer period of post-election
coalition building, which could consume politicians for weeks

(Ref J). Losses by the traditional "big three" of Bosnian politics -- the SDA, HDZ, and SDS -- could/could also result in leadership changes that further preoccupy the parties and have a significant impact on the tone of Bosnian politics. Imagine, for example, an SDA led by a more overtly nationalist figure than the moderate Tihic. Our immediate post election challenge may be keeping issues on an otherwise crowded political agenda in order to ensure that we are ready to press ahead once the dust settles.

MCELHANEY